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1. Abstract principles of ideology, impersonal loyalty, and Party regulations and discipline undoubtedly play an important part in holding the Communist organization together. However, personal relationships are also important, at least on upper levels. Communist personnel does not seem to be completely interchangeable irrespective of personal affiliations.
2. In the early days of the Communist occupation of Canton, persons like the Chief of the Bureau of Public Safety, LAI Ch'uan-chu (賴傳珠)** and Political Commissar of the Canton city garrison, TENG Tzu-hui (鄧子恢)** seemed at first to have been assembled from various quarters under the impersonal leadership of YEH Chien-ying. But according to some old documents in Peiping, these men have a long personal relationship with YEH. They were intimately associated with YEH in the days of the New 4 Army during the Japanese War, and YEH took them along with him when he was assigned to his post in Kwangtung. Others YEH took with him include people like LIN Ch'ao (林超)*** a woman in her thirties, formerly YEH's English secretary when he was chief of staff of the Chinese Red Army. She was educated in a missionary academy in Hong Kong, and now is chief of the Aliens' Administration of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs in Canton.
3. In addition to personal acquaintances and connections, natives, or people who speak the dialects of the East River district, of which YEH is a native,**** also have an easy time getting into the government. This is true even of people with questionable backgrounds, such as landlords or former Kuomintang officials. An incompetent man was appointed to an important hospital position in Canton. Politically, he did not seem to be very leftist, and personally he was an offensive character. When someone suggested to the chief of the provincial Health Department that the man should be fired, the chief shrugged his shoulders, saying that since the man was an East River native who came from the same place as YEH, nothing could be done. Recently, a group of businessmen was gossiping while one drafted a telegram in English to settle some business deal in the United States. Another laughed at him, saying, "This is an imperialistic language. Why do you still use it?" The reply was, "I have to use either English or the East River language, if we are going to do business. In either case, it is not my native tongue." This is no joke. It is usually best to select someone who can speak Hakka

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or Ch'aoch'ou dialect when you want to make an inquiry in a government agency, especially local police stations, which are filled with East River men. One man got ahead in government by marrying an East River woman who could make connections for him.

The domination of Kwangtung by East River and Hakka people is not entirely due to YEH's influence. This district was a base of guerrilla activities in the anti-Japanese war, and East River natives furnish by far the largest share of soldiers and Party members in the Communist cause. Nevertheless, YEH's influence and exclusive local sectionalism have made the government of Kwangtung essentially a monopoly of the East River people, something that increasingly irks people in general.

The dominance of localistic and to some extent personal relations, however, should not be understood as the only thread holding together the Communist organization. There are many in the government who have neither of these connections. Tens of thousands of students from high schools and colleges throughout the country, who are being absorbed into the Communist machine, do not share these connections. For them, the abstract principles of ideology, loyalty to the group, and discipline are most important. However, status and position in government are still determined in part by the length of time a man has worked, and in part by his length of service in the Communist Party. In these two respects, the oldtimers will always be ahead of the newcomers in attaining the high positions where sectionalism and personal connections are still important.

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* [REDACTED] Comment. LAI Ch'uan-chu replaced TUNG Hua as Canton garrison commander in August 1950 [REDACTED]

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** [REDACTED] Comment. As of 7 October 1950, TUNG Tzu-hui was chairman of the Central and South China Military and Administrative Committee.

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*** [REDACTED] Comment. According to information available to this office, a certain LIN Ch'ao (林超), reportedly a native of Chekiang, was supervisor of the Southeast Training Center under TAI Li at Ch'ien hou, Fukien, in July 1945.

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**** [REDACTED] Comment. YEH Chien-ying was born in Meihsien, Kwangtung, in 1897, the son of a Hakka merchant.

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